

# The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc.



The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. is one of 15 RC&D Councils in the five state New England region and one of three Councils that serve Massachusetts.



The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council's Board of Directors represents a cross-section of the region and is comprised of representatives from regional planning organizations, conservation districts, county commissioners, and the community at large.



The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council has the unique ability to build private-public partnerships. We bring people and organizations together so they can solve resource conservation, economic and environmental challenges.



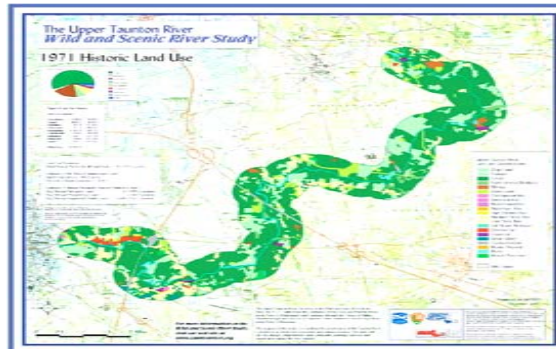
Partners include local town, city, and regional boards and organizations; community-oriented organizations; state and federal agencies; and educational institutions.

## Pilgrim RC&D Service Results

### ✓ **Effective community organizing for agricultural business development and agricultural land resource protection.**

The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council is developing and sharing information throughout the region and state on how towns can effectively organize town agricultural commissions. In 2003 these towns have agricultural commissions: Dartmouth, Westport, Middleborough and Rehoboth.

✓ **Wise Land Use and Land Management Decision-Making based on unbiased and accurate natural resource assessments.** Environmental review team studies are requested by towns. The results of reviews provide town boards with natural resource assessments, protection and or management strategies and options for environmental protection. ERTs have been completed for the Towns of Dartmouth, North Attleborough and Dennis.



### ✓ **Innovative Water Resource Management & Water Quality Improvements.**



Pilgrim RC&D implemented an EPA Water Quality demonstration grant to plan, design and install a shared (5 dwellings) innovative/alternative septic system along Billington Sea in Plymouth, reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in effluent. This provides protection to nearby shallow drinking water wells and to the lake.

✓ **Agricultural Economic Development.** Pilgrim RC&D was instrumental in coordinating and organizing efforts that resulted in the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP). SEMAP is a grassroots regional organization focused on securing a profitable agriculture in southeastern Massachusetts.



SEMAP offers Buy Local Campaign services and products, assists in establishing farmers' markets, connects consumers to where they can buy local products, provides direct business assistance to the region's 1600 farms, and offers training and educational opportunities for farm business betterment.

SEMAP is a model that is presently being researched for replication in other regions of the state. [www.umassd.edu/SEMAP](http://www.umassd.edu/SEMAP)

## What is Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)?

RC&D is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program, administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was created in 1962 and is based on the assumption that local citizens -- RC&D Councils -- with help provided through the USDA, can develop and carry out an action-oriented plan for the economic, social and environmental enrichment of their communities.

The RC&D Program promotes conservation, development, and use of natural resources to improve economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in all communities. The program's aim is to provide a system for rural development, encourage the wise use of natural resources, and improve the quality of life.

The National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils was established in 1988 to represent America's 368 local Resource Conservation & Development Councils. Local councils deliver coordinated resource conservation and development assistance throughout rural America. [www.rcdnet.org](http://www.rcdnet.org)

## Youth Scholarship

The RC&D Council provides an annual scholarship through the **Howard & Mary Hayward Scholarship Fund** to a local deserving high school junior or senior who intends to pursue further education in natural resources, conservation, agriculture or related subject. This is awarded each June. Deadline is May 1st. Call for details.

## Contact Us

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# Serving Communities and Protecting Natural Resources

## in Southeastern Massachusetts



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